



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

P.O. Box 116, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
Phone: 573/526-9100 Fax: 573/634-7966
E-mail: mosema@mail.state.mo.us



SITUATION REPORT

April 24, 2002 S.E. Missouri Tornado Event

Initial Report

April 25, 2002

Around 4:00 p.m., a line of thunderstorms with high winds, damaging hail and tornadoes stretched from just south of St. Louis through most of South East Missouri. There were numerous reports of tornadoes that developed from this front as it passed through the area.

County Reports:

Butler County: American Red Cross reports that 30 homes were destroyed, 16 additional homes have major damage and 150 minor damaged homes in the Poplar Bluff area. Northern Butler County also suffered heavy damage, but no definitive reports as of this report. Missouri State Highway Patrol (Troop E) reported 14 injuries, 4 serious condition with about 30-40 homes damaged in Butler County. Highway 60 and Highway 67 were closed for some time. It was reported that several cars were damaged, blown off the highway or were picked up by the tornado.

Carter County: Early reports by local officials indicated that they had one injured, some homes destroyed and a lot of residential damage in Elsimore, Missouri. One car reported rolled over with occupants inside. Roof and tree damage in Van Buren, Missouri. Power outages throughout the whole county. Local officials requested State aid, American Red Cross as well as AmeriCorp assets were deployed to assist in sheltering, damage assessment, and immediate cleanup. Carter County Commission has declared this a level 2 emergency and is asking for State Assistance. Carter County officials had indicated that the damage from this tornado was as much as a half a mile wide and extends from Elsimore to the Butler County line. As of 0630 hours this date, Carter County Emergency Management reports 40-50 homes destroyed in Elsimore, 7 businesses totally destroyed which, "is the core of the town." Two truck stops about a mile apart took direct hits. Two businesses in Van Buren were severely damaged including The Landing and Roseclif Lodge. Recovery operations in Elsimore will be centered around the Elsimore General Baptist Church.

Madison County: Local emergency management officials reported at the town of Twelve Mile, Missouri as many as 12 damaged homes with 3 or 4 totally destroyed. At Marquand, Missouri 20-30 homes damaged including the volunteer firehouse was flattened with the fire apparatus inside. Marquand City Hall suffered severe damage as well as the local Café and a beauty shop. Three people suffered minor injuries. Two of these were transported to Madison Medical Center in Fredricktown and were treated, then released.

Other Counties:

Bollinger County: Little or no damage to report, just power outages associated with lines down coming out of Madison County.

Scott County: No damage, providing mutual aid to Butler County.

Stoddard County: No damage, providing mutual aid to Butler and Carter Counties.

SEMA actions:

SEMA coordinated immediate dispatch of American Red Cross and AmeriCorp resources to affected to counties. SEMA officials will dispatch preliminary disaster assessment teams to assist local officials in requesting further aid early today. The SEMA Area Coordinator for Southeast Missouri visited many of the sites during the evening hours.

Missouri State Highway Patrol is assisting the Butler and Madison County authorities in providing security at damage sites throughout Southeast Missouri. Butler County has requested that Highway Patrol aviation assets be used this morning to do a fly-over of the damaged area.

American Red Cross has despatched two disaster action teams (DAT) to the area. One to Poplar Bluff and one to Elsimore, Missouri.

AmeriCorp has sent one team into Poplar Bluff and the balance of their resources into Carter County (Elsimore).

Forecast: National Weather Service indicates that the front has moved out of Missouri and today will be clear and cooler. Next chance of storms is late Friday or early Saturday morning as a storm will enter the area from the northwest.